



## **Background Paper**

**Committee:** Security Council

**Topic:** Preemptive Ban on the Development, Production, and Use of Fully Autonomous Weapons

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In the last few decades, technology has advanced to an enormous extent, humanity has developed the ability to create machines with desirable traits, fully programmed to wait for one's command. New inventions such as Artificial Intelligence have led to the rise of a new and unexplored area: The use of AI-powered Machines and Drones for military purposes, better known as “killer robots”. These self-operating machines are programmed to follow strict orders, programmable to their owner's will. This could vary from guarding, following a target, killing, or bombing an area. Concerns about this topic have risen as technology advances and more and more countries are starting to develop these “killer robots”.

As countries are starting to operate AI-powered Robots more ethical questions appear, for instance, who to blame if the machine on duty creates casualties. Killer Robots may be efficient in their duties, but they do not possess the human moral values that allow them to judge whether or not to kill, bomb, or follow a task. Alarmed by the situation that is currently affecting the world, the Security Council has decided to take matters into the subject. The Security Council encourages other nations to address this topic in order of endorsing a resolution regarding this relevant topic.

These fully autonomous weapons are being developed by nations such as the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, China, the Republic of Korea, France, and Israel. These weapons have created a significant uncertainty of being capable to meet international humanitarian law standards. These countries have deployed or are developing more than 380 partially autonomous weapon systems.

The Republic of Korea works in demilitarised zones where mechanized sentries are deployed. The State of Israel has developed the Iron Dome which is programmed to detect and destroy short-range rockets. The United Kingdom is working on developing Taranis, a drone that has the capacity of flying

autonomously and avoiding radar detection. In the same way, China is focusing on developing small drones that are equipped with heat sensors and are programmed to attack anything that radiates body temperature called “swarms”. On the other hand, the United States has developed semi-autonomous missile-defense systems like the Patriot and the Aegis Combat Systems. Moreover, the United States has completed the development and testing of an absolute autonomous anti-submarine vessel. This vessel has the ability to sink opponent’s submarines and ships without having any person on board. In addition, Russia built the robot T-14 tank that can be equipped with a machine gun or grenade launcher and is capable of autonomously detecting, choosing, and destroying targets based on artificial neural networks.

On the contrary, the Human Rights Watch has called for the “preemptive ban on the development, production, and use of fully autonomous weapons”. The Human Rights Watch has also participated in the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots as a founding member and active coordinator. Countries including Argentina, Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, the State of Palestine, Venezuela, among many others have joined this campaign calling for the banning of killer robots. Furthermore, the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots is a coalition of 30 countries, more than 110 NGOs, the European Parliament, the Human Rights Council Report, among others including the United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, which has expressed his opposition and concern to these fully autonomous weapons.

The Security Council encourages all delegations to address this topic as many nations have started the development and deployment of fully autonomous weapons. As already stated, these weapons denominated as killer robots are not regulated and may cause severe inconvenience in the near future. Concerns have been expressed by governments all around the globe regarding these machines taking over the battlefield and human lives with it. Despite the current situation the world is facing by the enormous effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic, diplomacy and foreign relations cannot be left behind. The United Nations Security Council is deeply convinced and further invites all nations to come to an agreement with the endorsement of a vigorous resolution, bearing in mind the situation we are currently living in. All these factors must be taken into further notice in order to keep the peace, prosperity, and security which the United Nations strongly believes in.

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